

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am pleased to sign Senate Bill 788.

With the enactment of this measure, California will be the last state to officially license and regulate the profession of licensed professional counselors. I believe these professionals will help provide greater access to much-needed mental health services to Californians.

While I believe this is an important step to increase our health care workforce, I continue to have significant concerns about the overall complaint, investigation and enforcement process at the various boards under the Department of Consumer Affairs. This bill will significantly increase the number of licensees at the Board of Behavioral Sciences – and I do not want to cause further delays in that board's investigation and enforcement activities.

I would ask the author to work with both the Legislature and my Administration next year on a series of reforms to the complaint, investigation and enforcement process for these critical board activities so that consumers can be assured of the quality of their licensed health care professionals.

For this reason, I am pleased to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger